

include undermining democratic processes or institutions; committing human rights abuses related to political repression, including detentions and disappearances; and engaging in public corruption, including by diverting or misusing Belarusian public assets or by misusing public authority. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons with respect to Belarus.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 14, 2007.

CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate and to wish a happy Father's Day to all of the fathers across America. In particular, I wish a very special and very respectful Father's Day to all of those serving on the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan, all of our veterans, all of them loved dearly for their service, and as well the service and love they give their families.

I want to pay special tribute to those fathers who are no longer with us, and might I mention Ezra C. Jackson, my father, my dad, who will always be someone in my heart as someone willing to stand by his children and be able to uplift his children.

Again this is a commemorative holiday where we simply say "thank you." Fathers are the guiding force, fathers bring strength, both in religion, both in character, and in support of their families. We are a nation of families, moms and dads and grandmothers and grandfathers. And for all of those who have stood in as fathers, we wish you a very happy Father's Day as well.

This is a special day, and as I close, let me simply say, we have a weekend of Father's Day. And in Texas, we commemorate Juneteenth. It is a special weekend of celebrations, remembering the struggle of those who were not yet freed as slaves, and remembering the service and the love that our fathers give in America.

We are united as families, and fathers remain very dear in our hearts. Happy Father's Day.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LISTENING TO THE TROOPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today marks over 1,500 days of the occupation of Iraq. Since that time, over 3,500 brave men and women have given their lives and at least 2,600 have been injured. We have spent nearly half a trillion dollars, but this occupation is about more than just numbers. It is about the lives, both American and Iraqi, that will be changed forever.

So many brave men and women heeded the call of the Commander in Chief to rid Iraq of Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction. One could say many of these troops were misled with false or at the very least faulty intelligence. They deserve so much more for their sacrifice and their service.

Last month, Santa Rosa Press Democrat, a newspaper in my district, carried a story titled, "GI's Voice Disillusionment With the War." It outlined the frustrations of our troops, some on their first tour, others who have served again and again.

One account exemplifies the frustration, and I will read it. "In 2003, 2004, 100 percent of the soldiers wanted to be here to fight this war," said Sergeant First Class David Moore, a self-described "conservative Texas Republican" and platoon sergeant who strongly advises an American withdrawal.

"Now," he says, "95 percent of my platoon agrees with me."

Mr. Speaker, that is directly from the front. This is not something that has been run through the administration's spin machine. This is the unvarnished truth from the troops in the trenches.

One more account comes from Staff Sergeant David Safstrom. According to the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, Staff Sergeant Safstrom does not regret his previous tours in Iraq, not even a difficult second stint when two comrades were killed while trying to capture insurgents. He said, "In Mosul, in 2003, it felt like we were making the city a better place. There was no sectarian violence. Saddam was gone. We were tracking down the bad guys. It felt awesome."

But now, Mr. Speaker, on this third deployment in Iraq, he is no longer a believer in the mission. The pivotal moment came, he says, this February when soldiers killed a man setting a roadside bomb. When they searched the bomber's body, they found identification showing him to be a sergeant in the Iraqi Army.

"I thought," he said, "What are we doing here? Why are we still here?" said Safstrom, a member of Delta Com-

pany of the 1st battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division. He had changed his mind.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear, I and every one of my colleagues support the troops. We honor their bravery and we commit to ensuring that they receive all of the promised benefits as a result of their service to our Nation.

I believe that the best way we can stand up for our troops is to bring them home. It is past time for a fully funded and safe redeployment. We will not back out of our commitment to the Iraqi people. We will work with them to increase their security forces and to help in reconstruction.

But we must face the facts. The situation on the ground may be worse than it ever has been before. Military leaders are conceding that the so-called surge is not working, and it may never.

The administration has even said that we needed to look at the situation in Iraq like that of Korea, and we have been there half a century. That is simply not an option.

Let's do the right thing. Let's do the sensible thing. Let's bring our troops home. We owe it to them and we owe it to our Nation.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)